IN THE CLAIMS

The following includes the entire set of pending claims in accordance with proposed revisions to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 allowing for amendments in revised format.

Please amend Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 14-17, 19, and 21-22.

Please add Claims 31-33.

1. (currently amended) A method of intercepting a communication between two applications in a computer environment, the method comprising:

intercepting a ~~data communication~~ user action between a first application and a second application without changing the functionality of the first application and the second application;

providing a digital object created by the second application;

providing a control object capable of specifying an action on the digital object depending on the intercepted ~~data communication~~ user action; and

performing the action specified by the control object on the digital object.

2. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first application and the second application communicate via a predefined communication channel.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the action comprises re-directing the ~~data communication~~ user action to a third application.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the action comprises monitoring the ~~communication~~ user action.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the monitoring action comprises auditing user actions taken on ~~a~~ the digital object by recording the type ~~of action~~ and frequency of ~~that action~~ the user actions.

6. (original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the monitoring action comprises computing the efficiency of the first application or the second application for performing

LAW OFFICES OF MacPHERSON KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
2403 MICHELSON DR. SUITE 210 IRVINE, CA 92612 (949) 752-7040 FAX (949) 752-7049



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certain user actions.

7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the action comprises augmenting information to the ~~data communication~~ user action.

8. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises authorizing user access and use of the digital object.

9. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises authorizing user access and use of the second application.

10. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises activating purchase requirements for user access and use of the digital object including presenting a display screen whereby the user can (i) confirm a previous payment or (ii) purchase control rights for access and use of the digital object.

11. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises activating purchase requirements for user access and use of the second application including presenting a display screen whereby the user can (i) confirm a previous payment or (ii) purchase control rights for access and use of the second application.

12. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises displaying advertisements upon particular application communications.

13. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises executing a help program on specific application communications.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises rendering audible or visual feedback to the user ~~actions~~ action implemented on the digital object or the second application.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises archiving a history of ~~the~~ user actions implemented on the digital object or the

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2402 MICHELSON DR. SUITE 210 IRVINE, CA 92612 (949) 752-7040 FAX (949) 752-7049



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second application.

16. (currently amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the augmenting action comprises customizing a user assistance program based on information related to the ~~data communication~~ user action and collected by the control object, wherein the user assistance program can render audible or visual feedback to a user when one or more pre-defined user actions are repeated.

17. (currently amended) A method of in-place editing by user action of digital objects created in a document server application in data communication with a hosting application, the method comprising:

providing an intercept application which intercepts an in-place editing user ~~actions~~ action sent from the hosting application;

providing an external control agent which monitors the user ~~actions~~ action intercepted by the intercept application;

registering the intercept application with an operating system;

designating an application associated with the creation of ~~the~~ a digital object as the document server application;

designating the intercept application as the active document server of the digital object;

providing rules of usage of the digital object;

activating the external control agent to open the digital object and to read the rules that are associated with the digital object;

sending the in-place editing user ~~actions~~ action from the intercept application to the external control agent whereby the in-place editing user ~~actions are to be~~ action is monitored by the external control agent; ~~and~~

opening ~~of~~ the digital object ~~by~~ using the intercept application; and

performing the in-place editing user action on the digital object according to the rules of usage.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the hosting application comprises an Internet browser application.

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2402 MICHELSON DR.
SUITE 210
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049



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19. (currently amended) A method of embedding a control object into a hosting application as an interface to determine the control rights of a digital object, the method comprising:

providing a digital object created by a document server application in communication with ~~the~~ a hosting application;

~~activating the~~ providing a control object to open the digital object and to read ~~the~~ control rights associated with the digital object;

intercepting a user ~~actions~~ action by an intercept application;

monitoring the user ~~actions~~ action intercepted by the intercept application by the control object; and

authorizing a user to implement ~~actions~~ an action on the digital object depending on the intercepted user action and according to the control rights.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the hosting application comprises an Internet browser application.

21. (currently amended) A system of embedding a control object into a hosting application as an interface to determine the control rights of a digital object and to monitor user actions, the system comprising:

a control object which monitors a plurality of user actions ~~and authorizes implementation of the user actions on the digital object according to the control rights~~;

a hosting application which activates the control object to open ~~the~~ a digital object and to read ~~the~~ control rights associated with the digital object;

a document server application associated with the creation of the digital object; and

an intercept application which intercepts the user actions, mimics the functionality of the document server application, and performs the user actions on the digital object depending on the intercepted user actions and according to the control rights.

22. (currently amended) A program storage device storing instructions for a computer to perform the method comprising:

LAW OFFICES OF MacPHERSON KWOK CHEN & HEID LLP
2402 MICHELSON DR. SUITE 210 IRVINE, CA 92612 (949) 752-7040 FAX (949) 752-7049



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providing an intercept application which intercepts an in-place editing user ~~actions~~ action sent from ~~the~~ a hosting application;

providing an external control agent which monitors the user ~~actions~~ action intercepted by the intercept application;

registering the intercept application with an operating system;

designating an application associated with the creation of ~~the~~ a digital object as the document server application;

designating the intercept application as the active document server of the digital object;

providing rules of usage of the digital object;

activating the external control agent to open the digital object and to read the rules that are associated with the digital object;

sending the in-place editing user ~~actions~~ action from the intercept application to the external control agent whereby the in-place editing user ~~actions are to be~~ action is monitored by the external control agent; ~~and~~

opening ~~of~~ the digital object ~~by~~ using the intercept application; and

performing the in-place editing user action on the digital object according to the rules of usage.

23. (original) The program storage device of Claim 22, wherein the hosting application comprises an Internet browser application.

24. (previously canceled)

25. (previously canceled)

26. (previously canceled)

27. (previously canceled)

28. (previously canceled)

29. (previously canceled)

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30. (previously canceled)

31. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein the user action includes an in-place edit on the digital object.

32. (new) The method of Claim 19, wherein the user action includes an in-place edit on the digital object.

33. (new) The method of Claim 21, wherein the user actions include an in-place edit on the digital object

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2401 MICHELSON DR.
SUITE 210
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049



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